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European Union

Trade Policy Monitoring

EU Trade Development Projects

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Report Highlights:

On February 10, 2003, the European Commission presented a brochure featuring case studies on EU trade development projects around the world. At the press conference, Commissioner Lamy said that increased market access is key to the success of ongoing WTO negotiations and that, like aid, trade is instrumental in reducing poverty in developing countries.

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Case reports of EU trade development projects around the world

On February 10, 2003, European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and Development and Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Poul Nielson presented a brochure featuring case studies on EU trade development projects around the world. The brochure includes a selection of examples where EU aid helped developing countries increase their exports and contributed to local development. They range from helping traders meet EU quality standards, certification or customs procedures to training negotiators. According to Commissioner Lamy, the examples given in the brochure are the result of the EU opening its market to developing countries, especially through the Everything but Arms initiative, and targeted trade-related assistance. The brochure also refers to the EU's 2002 policy paper "Trade & Development: assisting developing countries to benefit from trade" which identified trade as one of the key areas for development policy. At the press conference, Lamy said that increased market access is key to the success of ongoing WTO negotiations and that, like aid, trade is instrumental in reducing poverty in developing countries. The European Commission is currently setting up a "Help Desk" to improve developing countries' access to the EU market. The Help Desk will become operational in the course of 2003 and will provide practical information on EU import requirements to developing countries' governments and industry. By choosing this approach rather than just simplifying their import rules, the EU instead is helping to promote the EU's regulatory philosophy in developing countries.

The EU brochure "Case reports of EU trade developments around the world" can be downloaded from the Commission's website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/miti/devel/broch_en.pdf; the EU policy paper "Trade & Development: assisting developing countries to benefit from trade" at http://europa.eu.int/comm/trade/pdf/comdev_170902.pdf.

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